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REMARKS

In the Final Office Action dated October 26, 2006 and the Advisory Action dated February 1, 2007, Claims 38 and 42-45 are pending and under examination. Claims 38, 42-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Liu et al. (*J. Inorganic Biochemistry* 1998 Vol. 71, page 1-6) in view of Pisanti et al. (*Marine Pollution Bull* (1988) Vol. 19, page 328-333). Claims 44-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Liu et al. in view of Pisanti et al. and further in view of Gold et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,242,246).

Applicants, through the undersigned, wish to thank Examiner Changhwa J. Cheu for the courtesy and assistance extended to Applicants during telephonic communications conducted on April 23 and June 13, 2007.

By way of the instant amendment, Applicants have amended Claims 38 and 44. Applicants have also added Claims 46 and 47. Claim 38 is amended to further delineate that the toxicant is a metal atom in an aquatic, terrestrial, gaseous or industrial environmental sample. Support for newly added Claims 46 and 47 is found, e.g., at page 8, line 10-14 of the specification, and in Claims 13-14 as originally filed and previously submitted Claim 38. Claim 44 is amended to depend upon Claim 46. No new matter is introduced by the foregoing amendments.

Applicants will file a supplemental response to address the Examiner's rejections raised in the Final Office Action.

In view of the foregoing amendments, it is firmly believed that the present application is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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